

City Data

The following section presents data on the health of infants and children living in cities compared to that of children nationwide. Included are data on infant mortality, low birth weight, and prenatal care for those women and children who reside in U.S. cities with over 100,000 residents.

The following measures indicate that the health status of children living in large U.S. cities is generally poorer than that of children in the Nation as a whole. In 2003, the percentage of infants born at low birth weight was 8 percent higher in cities compared to the National average (8.5 versus 7.9 percent). Infant mortality was also higher in cities, likely due at least in part to the higher rate of low birth weight. In 2002, the city infant mortality rate was 7.5 per 1,000 live births, compared to a rate of 7.0 nationwide. The percentage of pregnant women receiving first trimester prenatal care was lower in cities (81.7 percent) than it was nationwide (84.1 percent).



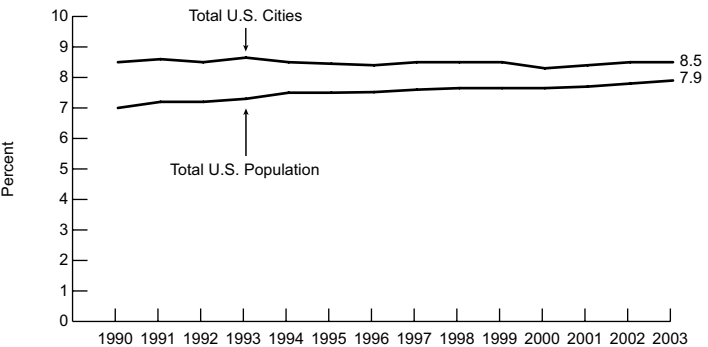
BIRTH WEIGHT

Low Birth Weight. Disorders related to short gestation and low birth weight are the second leading cause of neonatal mortality in the United States. In 2003, 114,085 babies born to residents of U.S. cities with populations over 100,000 were of low birth weight (weighing less than 2,500 grams, or 5 pounds 8 ounces); this represents a rate of 8.5 percent. The 2003 percentage of urban infants born at low birth weight was 8 percent higher than the National rate of 7.9 percent.

Very Low Birth Weight. Infants born at very low birth weight (less than 1,500 grams, or 3 pounds 4 ounces) are at highest risk for poor health outcomes. In 2003, 1.6 percent of live births in cities with populations over 100,000 were of very low birth weight. This exceeded the National very low birth weight rate by 14 percent.

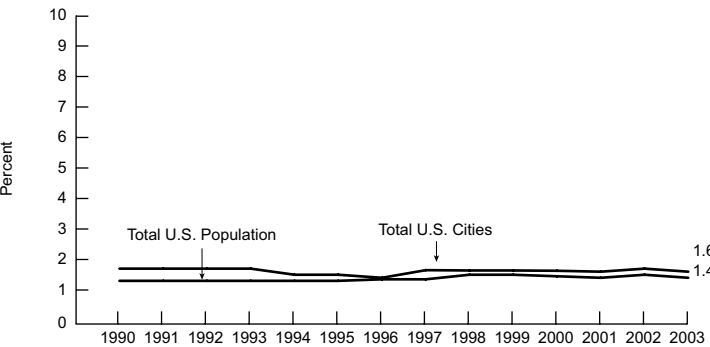
Infants Born at Low Birth Weight in U.S. Cities with Populations over 100,000: 1990-2003

Source (V.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



Infants Born at Very Low Birth Weight in U.S. Cities with Populations over 100,000: 1990-2003

Source (V.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System

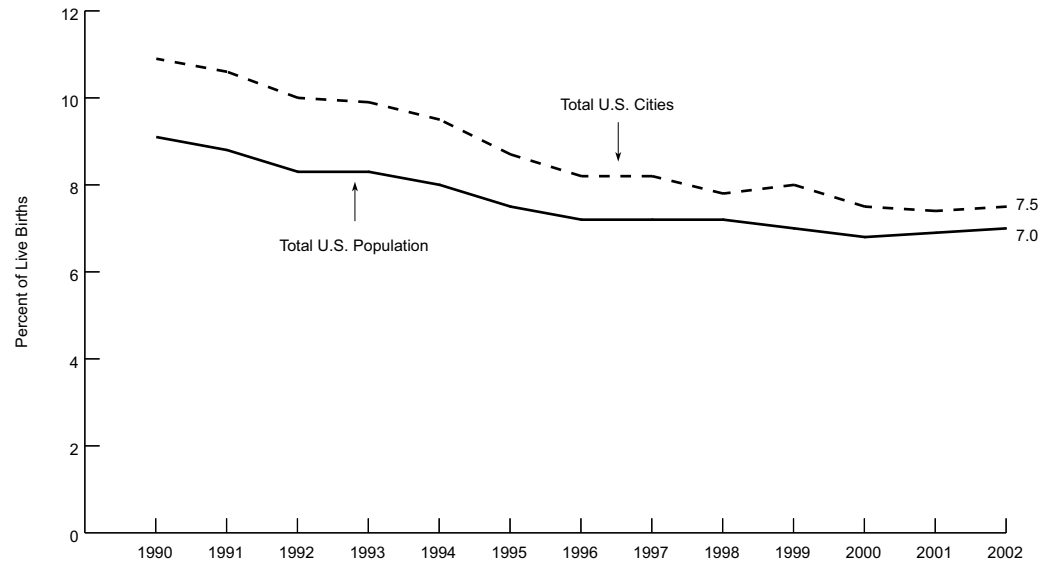


INFANT MORTALITY

In 2002, 9,204 infants born to residents of cities in the United States with populations over 100,000 died in the first year of life. The city infant mortality rate was 7.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, higher than the rate of 7.0 for the Nation as a whole. Although the infant mortality rate in cities has routinely been higher than the rate nationwide, it has declined over the past decade. Between 1990 and 2000, infant mortality in cities declined by roughly one-third; the decline nationwide in the same period was 25 percent. Between 2001 and 2002, there was an increase of 0.1 and 0.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively, in cities and nationwide.

Infant Mortality Rates in U.S. Cities with Populations over 100,000: 1990-2002

Source (V.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System





PRENATAL CARE

Early Prenatal Care. Women living in U.S. cities with a population of over 100,000 are less likely to begin prenatal care in the first 3 months of pregnancy than women nationwide. The gap in early entry into prenatal care between urban women and the Nation as a whole has narrowed since 1991.

In 2003, 81.7 percent of pregnant women living in U.S. cities began prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, compared to 84.1 percent

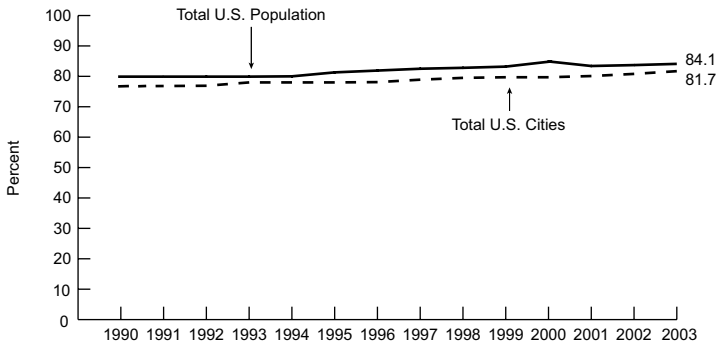
nationwide. The percentage of women receiving prenatal care has increased steadily in the past decade at both the city and nationwide levels. The Healthy People 2010 objective is for 90 percent of pregnant women to begin prenatal care in the first trimester.

Late or No Prenatal Care. In 2003, 4.4 percent of pregnant women living in U.S. cities with a population over 100,000 either began prenatal care in the third trimester or received no prenatal care. The percentage of women receiving late or no

prenatal care is 26 percent higher among women living in cities than among the overall population of the United States.

Pregnant Women Receiving First Trimester Prenatal Care in U.S. Cities with Populations Over 100,000: 1990-2003*

Source (V.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System



*2003 data includes 48 states and the District of Columbia.

Pregnant Women Receiving Late or No Prenatal Care in U.S. Cities with Populations Over 100,000: 1990-2003*

Source (V.1): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System

